

Congressman John B. Larson made available on his website a fact sheet in English and Spanish to help Connecticut residents born in Puerto Rico obtain a new birth certificate.

For Immediate Release: April 15, 2010

Contact: Paul Mounds/ 860-278-8888

### Larson Releases Fact Sheet on Puerto Rico Birth Certificate Policy

**Hartford, CT-** Today, U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) made available on his website a fact sheet in English and Spanish to help Connecticut residents born in Puerto Rico obtain a new birth certificate. (Fact sheet can found at [www.Larson.House.Gov](http://www.Larson.House.Gov) or [b](#) [y clicking here](#) )

In December 2009, the Government of Puerto Rico, in coordination with the United States Government addressed the high number of cases of fraud and identity theft using Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates, by calling for the issuing of new birth certificates to individuals born in Puerto Rico.

Congressman Larson said, ***“I truly understand the frustration expressed by the Puerto Rican community concerning the new birth certificate policy. I want to assure residents of the Hartford region born in Puerto Rico that my office stands ready to answer their questions.”***

The Government of Puerto Rico suggests individuals who will need a birth certificate for official purposes, for example to obtain a U.S. Passport or a driver's license, submit an application to the Puerto Rico Vital Statistics Record Office on or after July 1<sup>st</sup>. All other individuals interested in obtaining a new birth certificate for their personal records, are encouraged to submit their

application at later date.

According to the Department of State, approximately 40 percent of the cases of passport fraud processed by the Office of Diplomatic Security Services involved the birth certificates of people born in Puerto Rico.

###